

REMARKS

The Examiner's action dated April 29, 2005, has been received, and its contents carefully noted.

In order to advance prosecution, claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the contribution of the invention over the prior art, by inclusion therein of the recitations previously appearing in claim 6, claims 1 and 5 have been amended to eliminate minor informalities noted therein, and claim 6 has itself been canceled.

Claims 1-3, 5 and 7-9 are pending.

Since claim 6, which has been added to claim 1, was rejected only in Section 5 of the action, it is understood that all of the other rejections have been obviated.

The exercise drawing assembly now defined in claim 1 is not suggested by any reasonable combination of the teachings of Simonson and Sechrest.

In view of the present amendment, claim 1 now defines, as one element of the assembly, a chain having a distal end connected to a respective one of the holding members.

In the explanation of the rejection of claim 6 presented in the last Office Action, the examiner acknowledges that Simonson does not disclose that the distal end of a rope is provided with a chain that connects to a holding member.

In view of this shortcoming in the disclosure of the primary reference, further reliance is placed on the patent to Sechrest, and it is asserted, in support of this rejection, that Sechrest discloses an exercise device wherein the distal end of the rope includes a chain.

This rejection is traversed essentially for the reason that Sechrest does not disclose a chain.

It is clear from the present specification and drawing that the term "chain" is used to identify a flexible element composed of a series of links. This is the usual and ordinary meaning of the term. For example, the first definition of "chain" in The American Heritage College Dictionary, third edition, Houghton, Mifflin Company, Boston, New York (1993) is - a connected, flexible series of links, typically metal, used, for example, for binding or for transmitting mechanical power -.

Sechrest, does not mention a chain and simply discloses a single link attaching a rope to a handle.

Given the usual and ordinary meaning of "chain" and the structure of the chain 60 shown in the drawings of the present application, there is no basis for the view that Sechrest discloses a chain.

In view of the foregoing, it is requested that the rejection of claim 6 be reconsidered and withdrawn, that

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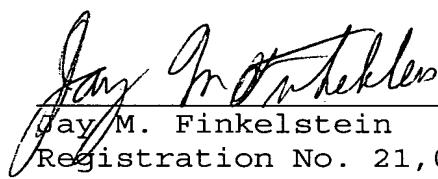
claims 1-3, 5 and 7-9 be allowed and the Application be found in allowable condition.

If the above amendment should not now place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to call undersigned counsel to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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